

# VIETNAM COURIER

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South Viet Nam

## Time-Tested Stamina

THE men in Washington have not yet given over their surprise. They were meant to manipulate governments and overthrow regimes in that fragile and needy Third World. A few million dollars, a CIA stunt, and the trick was pulled. American lives were not involved, and the honour of the US government was not at stake.

Now, against a government which is apparently as frail and impotent as so many others, Washington has stashed its honour, worse still, its major strategic trumpcard. For four years, from 1965 to 1968, the US command hurled against the DRVN its most up-to-date aircraft - Thunderchiefs, Phantoms, swing-wing F-111As, B-57s, its heavy bombers equalled in weight to which came, in their complicated bombs. For four years, the US government resigned itself to being pilloried by world public opinion. But neither the government nor the regime of the DRVN flinched.

In this month of September, while the DRVN observes the 24th anniversary of its founding, the Washington leaders must be pondering over the lesson of history. They must remember that in September 1945, while famine was on the rampage and the DRVN government had in its coffers a bare 1,259,720 piasters, American emissaries vainly tried to seduce it with an offer of technical and financial aid. Then, through a 500,000-strong occupation army under the banner of Chiang

Kai-shek, Washington wanted to subvert it, thinking it not yet firmly established. This took time to do away. US considerable financial and material help to the French colonialists with a view to doing away with the DRVN was also ineffectual. In 1964, American armed forces had to play a direct part in the game: again no results, just setbacks. And while American presidents came and went, the DRVN government, that one of 1945, remains at the helm. In Paris, Minister Xuan Thuy, completely relaxed, composing poems now in a voice, faces Americans, compatriots, Americans, Washington presidents Johnson and Nixon are plagued by insomnia while in Hanoi Premier Pham Van Dong placidly talks with writers about the purity of the Vietnamese language, and with archaeologists, whose excavations continue, about the origins of the Vietnamese people.

This serenity is the image of the strength of the DRVN. Not that problems are lacking. The government had rejected dollar offers in 1945, not because it was rich, but because it had something it prized more than dollars. It defeated the French expeditionary corps not because it had better weapons or better morale, but because it had in hand something much more effective than weapons. It held in check American air and naval forces not because it had better guns and planes but because its defences possess many other assets besides MiGs and SAMs.

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Target: a US military base

Da Nang Front:

## SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS AGAINST TWO US MARINE REGIMENTAL C.P.s



In the Hanoi Engineering Plant

LONG LIVE THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

**A**T the 32nd plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam the representatives of the Vietnamese people, Mr. Xuan Thuy (DRVN government) and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh (RVNV Provisional Revolutionary Government) strongly criticized the August 23 Nixon decision to postpone the withdrawal of some US troops from South Viet Nam. The DRVNs envoy said that the three conditions laid down by the Nixon administration for any withdrawal of US troops were in fact schemes to prolong the aggressive war and the participation of Viet Nam. Its August 23 decision showed that these conditions were only aimed at justifying its refusal to

aggression and wrest back independence and freedom will remain unshakable, and Nixon's decision will only expose him further to condemnation by US progressives and world opinion.

Concerning the recent "cabinet reshuffle" in Saigon, Mr. Xuan Thuy and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh stressed that the appointment of Tran Thien Khiem as "Prime Minister" highlighted the militaristic, dictatorial and warlike character of the clique of Saigon, agents of American imperialism; it provided a further proof of US rulers' perfidy in the use of puppets to counter the South Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace, independence and neutrality.

## Again on

# "Vietnamization" of the War

DO XUAN SANG

**N**IXON has put into practice the strategy of the Republican convention under a new name: "Vietnamization". It is better than "de-Americanization" and would help better hoodwink the American people, and its own promoters to begin with.

### AN INTERESTING CALCULATION

**V**AN Fleet who applied against Asians' device in the war of aggression in Korea, reckoned that with the same fire-power, the maintenance cost of ten thousand men was less than an American division. The yellow cannon-fodder is twice as cheap as American boys accustomed to nourishing and plentiful rations, and a sophisticated and cumbersome equipment. The logistics of the guerrilla are on the US military potential: from six to eight non-combatants to serve a soldier the frontline.

In South Viet Nam, the losses of the US expeditionary force are "indispensable". According to US official sources, whose least preoccupation is objectivity, from January 1, 1961 to mid-August 1, 1969, 960 reported missing and 345 taken prisoners, or a total of 3,010,000 personnel dead or missing. Viet Nam has become the second most costly war.

From 1961 to 1969, it cost the US military at least one hundred billion dollars, not including secret or indirect expenses, to be faced with effects to be faced with the long years to come: allowances for the wounded and disabled and for the widows and orphans of war-dead, etc...

For the fiscal year 1968-69 the US Congress has marked wellnigh 60 billion dollars, which is enormous

even for a big economic and financial power as the US. This equals the annual national income of Canada and nearly half that of Great Britain in the US, the crusade against poverty received only 1.75 billion dollars in the same fiscal year.

"Vietnamization" of the war would curtail expenditure a great deal, stop the flight of dollars abroad and would reduce American toll to an "admissible" level (for the Republicans' administration had never had the courage to withdraw all US troops from South Viet Nam, nor to dismantle all US bases there). A saving of some billion dollars would end the Nixon's gold and we look forward to the 1970 elections with less pessimism.

"Vietnamization" in Nixon's mind, does not mean "de-Americanization", but quite the contrary: achievement of US neo-colonialism at cheap price.

### FROM DREAM TO REALITY

**V**IETNAMIZATION, "well, but it so, but where to find Vietnamese traitors to the country" is the official slogan saying the role of local leaders? This is a real headache for the Yankee aggressors who have made a real sacrifice for their Diem brothers sacrificed in 1963. The latter were at least as placemen, ministers, while the present regime, which is not without tyrants Johnson had much trouble to harness to the same troika the pig-headed Diem lackeys Nguyen Van Thieu and Tran Van Huong. However, as one knows, there is no love lost between Nguyen Cao Ky and his elder brother Van Thieu.

Nguyen Van Thieu and Tran Van Huong have put up with each other for fifteen months since the pitcher that often goes to the well gets broken at last. The August 23 communiqué of the two paper "friends" reveals that agreement had been reached between these two topmost quislings for Thieu to appoint his close members of the Central Committee to the post of C.I.A. The tension between them reflected the conflicts in the Saigon "Congress" where young turks came to blows and then resolved it among themselves and called each other speculators and thieves. In that "Parliament" and Social Front patched up by Nguyen Van Thieu with greenbacks and instigated by the Americans, has no more the six member parties, some of them having no more than... six followers!

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**V**IETNAMIZATION of the war is just like squaring the circle, i.e. a pipe dream that will never leave the realm of the impossible, logically speaking to "Vietnamize" the war of aggression against Viet Nam. For the Yankees who pride themselves on their pragmatism, there is only one solution: go home!

*face all eventualities. The South Vietnamese's struggle for independence and freedom can only be strong, flawless, rear. While the will for independence draws its strength from a century-old history socialism has instilled new vigor into it. The assistance of the socialist countries and the active support of world opinion and progressive American circles have greatly reinforced a resistance which strikes deep roots into the national soil.*

*Nobody in Viet Nam, either in the North or in the South, entertains any doubt about the final outcome.*

32nd Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Aug. 23, 1969)

## US Trick behind Nixon's Postponement of Troop Pull-Out Bared

pull out its expeditionary troops from South Viet Nam.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh recalled that the protest invoked by Nixon was the South Vietnamese people's and armed forces' stepped-up assaults on the US aggressors. This was but a manoeuvre to pressure the South Vietnamese into retreating their activities and leaving the US aggressors free to commit more crimes in South Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam PRG negotiator said, but she added the South Vietnamese people's will to oppose US

it would render more difficult a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem consistent with the principles of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights.

Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded his speech by reasserting the resolve of the whole Vietnamese nation to carry on the struggle and devote all its moral and material forces to the preservation of their independence and freedom, as made clear by President Ho Chi Minh on Sept. 2, 1945 (DRVN Declaration of Independence).

\*

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## Time-Tested Stamina

(Continued from page 1)

*The problems are innumerable and of unprecedented complexity, our efforts, reconstruction, setting up of new and usual structures, struggle against natural calamities, situations and cultural development, diplomacy, etc. But any foreign visitor could see the troops' calm and the leaders' tranquility. Whether the war is to last one year or ten years more, whether Mr. Nixon threatens or blusters, whether the waters of the Red River rise or ab, the government and people of the DRVN stand ready.*

*Twenty-four years of struggle for national independence, and fifteen years of socialist building have forged a regime and a people to*

## THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

# Some Figures

From February 7, 1965 to November 1, 1968, North Viet Nam sent 200 planes to the two US planes a day for 71.8 a month, sank or fired ablaze more than three enemy naval craft a month, on an average.

In 1968, 85.8 per cent of 1,100 peasant households joined cooperatives and in 1967, 93.7 per cent. In 1968, 92 per cent of house-holds were in high-level cooperatives.

— 1966: 2,029 cooperatives were supplied 3,520 generators (powered by electricity, steam, wind, 5,585 machines (pumps, threshers, grinders, cutters, etc.).

— The share of industry in the gross industrial and agricultural output kept growing: 17.2 per cent in 1955, 41.8 in 1960, 49.5 in 1967.

— Between 1965 and 1967, 1,105 industrial undertakings built by the local authorities were put into commission, i.e. more than one enterprise a day on an average:

— From 1965 to 1967, 1,105 industrial undertakings built by the local administrations were put into operation, among which 224 turning out engineering products, metal products, 231 making building materials, 23 producing foodstuffs and 21 dealing with printing and cultural articles.

— To date, North Viet Nam has had about 1,000 centrally and locally run enterprises and about 2,000 handicraft cooperatives.

Agricultural cooperatives currently runs to over 100,000 men, of whom 400,000 belong to the regular army.

It does exist and makes

on paper a nice parade of ten aircraft divisions, an airborne division, twenty battalions, 16,000 airmen with many hundred fighter transports, planes and a flotilla of many seagoing vessels and river craft manned by a 24,000-strong crew including six marine infantry battalions.

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on paper a nice parade of ten aircraft divisions, an airborne division, twenty battalions, 16,000 airmen with many hundred fighter transports, planes and a flotilla of many seagoing vessels and river craft manned by a 24,000-strong crew including six marine infantry battalions.

— In 1968, out of the 2,551 cooperatives producing more than 5 tons, 315 obtained between 6 and 3 tons, 49 between 7 and 8 tons, and 3 more than 8 tons.

— In 1969, only 24 out of 1,000 people went to school, mostly in primary schools; only 3 out of 100,000 people attended university.

thick of the fight!"

These words made a deep impression on her.

At noon, two F-4s roared in. Khuong's heart went pit-a-pat. "Was she scared? No. She was determined to see the development of the fight." "How would the enemy plane nose-dive? When should I order fire?" She realized that in such a case when the actual job things were quite different when she thought of the advice of the local Party branch secretary: "Your job is hard indeed, but you must do what I am doing to." And she said to herself, "To command them, first I must learn from them."

That day she asked Tran, her deputy, to continue in command. As he was absent, directed by him, she realized that there were flaws in it and said at an appropriate meeting: "The destruction of trench dug in straight line by infantry men may save us but exposes our men and does not allow a conservation of fire power. Her idea was shared by her mates including Tran.

The next morning, as soon as the new fortification had been built along Phuoc Binh street, Tran came and said to Khuong: "The gun emplacement is good. Pull yourself together! A C.O. must know how to do better than this."

She expected terrible criticism. But nothing happened. Her comrades, including those who had ironically called her "the girl who was not a girl" said goodby: "We were wise of the mark because your orders came when the enemy was already too low. So you know now!"

VII. NAM COURIER



Local industry in Nam Ha province: Production of bolts in an engineering workshop located in the countryside.



Diesel motors produced by the Tran Hung Dao Engineering Plant for agricultural cooperatives.

## A YOUNG MILITIA WOMAN'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

**T**ruong Thi Khuong, a 23-year-old girl, deputy commander of the people's militia unit of T. village, Vinh Linh area, has just been commended as heroine of the people's armed forces. Here is the story of the first battle she fought as head of the AAC team in her village, an assignment the got three days ago. — Editor

**K**HUE followed with a keen eye the evolutions of an L-19 reconnaissance plane. Perhaps it had been sent to the target because of a camouflage defect! After consulting with her mates, she made up her mind to move to a spot to intercept the gunners of the others. She took over the first battery and fired a shot as signal. A deafening roar was heard. The gunners returned fire. The battle lasted from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rains of bombs and shrapnel poured around the gunners, killing many of the enemy soldiers, giving the inhabitants and a militia unit nearby an adequate protection.

Truong Thi Khuong had been hit, her snug little wooden house was completely destroyed together with several hundred jack fruit trees which no longer gave out their fragrance. Her father and little sister were killed by bombs. She had an inner voice urging her to avenge these and her colleagues.

There was no time to waste. Let's go into action," she said to herself. She loaded all around and told her men to open fire, using the gunners' own weapons to intercept the gunners of the others. She took over the first battery and fired a shot as signal. A deafening roar was heard. The gunners returned fire. The battle lasted from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rains of bombs and shrapnel poured around the gunners, killing many of the enemy soldiers, giving the inhabitants and a militia unit nearby an adequate protection.

Truong Thi Khuong has fought nearly 50 actions. A good and mighty militia comrade and a good co-op farmer, she has been credited with a substantial contribution to the success of her unit — one on the 17th parallel — in production and combat.

# SOUTH VIET NAM: PRG, NFL, ALLIANCE LAUNCH REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS CALLS

**T**HIE Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces have issued appeals on the occasion of the anniversary of the August Revolution (August 19) and Independence Day (September 2) of Viet Nam.

Laying stress on international support for South Viet Nam, it said:

"The Government warmly thanks the socialist countries, the people and the Government of Cambodia, the Laotian people and the Laotian Patriotic Front, the peoples and governments of various countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the people and international organizations of peace and justice in the whole world including the progressive people in the United States, for their valuable sympathy with, and priceless support and assistance to, the South Vietnamese people in their current struggle against US aggression, for national salvation."

The appeal of the RSVNPRG highly praised the great achievements of the Vietnamese nation in the past 24 years, first in fighting the French colonialists, to defend independence and then in resisting US aggression, to save the country.

After pointing out that the repeated, successive and all-sided setbacks of the US-puppets had forced the US imperialists into "de-Americanizing" the Viet Nam war, the appeal reaffirmed the South Vietnamese people's faithfulness to the spirit of the August Revolution, saying:

The appeal of the NFL Central Committee pointed out that persisting in their aggressive stance, the US imperialists had been pressing absurd claims at the Paris Conference while in Saigon they were seeking to preserve the corrupt Saigon administration, which the entire South Vietnamese people were making above all and to prefer death to slavery, will certainly thwart all wicked and perfidious moves of the US-puppets."

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For its part, the Viet Nam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces made it plain that the US aggressors and the Saigon clique of traitors were also the arch-enemy of the South Vietnamese urban population.

It said that in the current general offensive and widespread uprising in South Viet Nam, the townpeople were making giant strides in their all-round effort to drive the aggressors out of their beloved land, oust the Saigon clique of traitors, and bring about the formation a peace cabinet ready to enter into serious talks with the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government on the basis of the 10-point overall solution of the NFL endorsed by the Allies.

"Such is, the road to great national unity and that of firm militancy against foreign aggression, the right path blazed for us by the Revolution of August 1945," the appeal of the Alliance said in conclusion.

## Facts and Dates on the August 1945 Revolution and Founding of the DRVN

October 1930

The Political Theses of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party — now the Viet Nam Workers' Party — advocate the education, mobilization and organization of the popular masses, the formation of forces to seize the opportunity to shift the imperialist power into a revolutionary war and to set up the Soviet power of workers and peasants.

November 1939

The 6th session of the Central Committee of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party is held. The resolution passed there points out: "The present situation has opened up the Indo-Chinese revolution; the prospects of the national liberation struggle of the Indo-Chinese people are clear and radiant. It requires us... to fight the imperialist war... make preparations to go into action, to carry out the national liberation revolution."

March 27, 1940

Insurrection at Bac Son (Lang Son province): the guerrillas hold control of the situation for nearly one month.

November 23, 1940

Many localities in Nam Ky (now Nam Bo) rise up. The uprisings are drowned in blood.

January 13, 1941

Vietnamese soldiers mutiny at the Do Lach (Nghe An province) garrison.

May 1941

The 8th session of the Central Committee of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party is called and the Viet Nam Independence League (VNL) is set up. In external affairs, the Party takes the line of anti-imperialism, take the anti-fascist side; in internal affairs, they favour respect of private property, freedom of conscience, equality between the sexes, equality and the two sexes, halt to the implementation of land reform in order to split the landlord class and broaden the unified national front.

March 9-12, 1945

An enlarged conference of the Provisional Bureau of the CC of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party is convened to assess the new situation created by the Japanese coup of March 9, 1945. It elaborates the aims and tasks of propaganda and agitation of struggle which will enable to push forward the revolutionary movement: "Be ready to shift over to a general insurrection as soon as the necessary conditions are ripe [for revolution]... after the surrender of the Japanese or on the occasion of a large-scale introduction and powerful advancement of the Allies into our territory...". The resolution passed on that occasion. And: "Be prepared to cooperate with Allied troops... But we must not regard the landing of the Allied forces in Indo-China as the sine qua non condition of our general insur-

rebellion.

April 15-20, 1945

A Revolutionary Military Conference is summoned in Tonkin where military measures are taken to launch the general insurrection all over the country.

June 4, 1945

The insurgents carry the day in Hue—"Imperial city"—in Central Viet Nam.

August 13-15, 1945

A Conference of Viet Minh cadres meet to merge revolutionary powers [people's committees] and bureaucratic units into one organization in the liberated areas of the provinces of Cao Bang, Bac Can, Tuyen Quang, Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Ha Giang.

August 27, 1945

The Provisional Government of the DRVN is proclaimed.

September 2, 1945

The independence of the DRVN is declared.

Viet NAM COURIER

## Recollections of the August Revolution and Independence Day

THE Viet Minh nation-wide Congress was attended by delegates from all parts of the country, some of whom walked several miles to get to it.

The main items in the Congress agenda were:

— To prepare for the general uprising and seize power.

— To cooperate with the Allies when they landed.

Discussion began. But on the evening of that very day, an important news item turned the Congress plans upside down: Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

The following day, the Congress discussed only the first question: the general uprising and seizing power.

The plan for uprising had been prepared long before and there remained only to submit it to the delegates from various regions for reconsideration and improvement, and to appoint the leaders for each region.

A National Committee assuming the rôle of a Provisional Government was set up. Ho Chi Minh was unanimously elected President by the Congress.

Ho Chi Minh's first words were: "We must do everything to save the people from poverty and starvation."

At midnight the delegates went home with enthusiasm, carrying with them the order for the uprising.

On July 16, 1945, the Viet Minh guerrilla groups left their base to go into action. Before leaving they attended a big sailing ceremony in which Vo Nguyen Giap, Chairman of the Military Committee, read a declaration.

Ho Chi Minh who could not attend the ceremony,

Singing, the guerrilla groups left their base, heavily charged with the population. The young leader of the groups, Quang Trung, was proudly marching under the red flag with a golden star.

Everywhere from the cities to the countryside, the people rose up and joined the liberation movement.

Viet Minh slogans appeared at every corner side by side with the gold-starred red flags.

"Down with the Japanese fascists!"

"Long live Viet Nam's Independence!"

"Let the whole people join in an armed uprising!"

Everywhere guerrilla groups came into being. They openly set their arms ready: Flint-lock rifles, bows, big sticks, etc... The women showed no less enthusiasm than the men. More guerrilla fighters were recruited.

The guerrilla groups began attacking Japanese military posts. The Japanese forces began disintegrating, while the Tran Trong Kim Government<sup>\*</sup> was collapsing even more rapidly.

The uprising spread from the North to the South.

Red flags with golden stars were seen everywhere—on big buildings and on bamboo huts—in the cities and in the countryside.

The people were longing for the coming of Ho Chi Minh.

Though still sick, Ho Chi Minh decided to join the people in the Capital, but only after Thanh Ngan had been liberated did he go to Hanoi.

But despite these facts, the French colonists propagated the lie that Ho Chi Minh was helped by the Japanese and that he was a Japanese agent.

In the delta, he suffered much from the effects of the havoc wrought by floods. All around was an immense expanse of water. Courtyards and gardens were damaged. The vast rice fields now looked like a sea. Flood waters covered the land. The camp took place after the ploughs of rice by the French and the Japanese in 1944-1945 which had caused a catastrophic famine in the Spring of 1945 with a toll of over two million Vietnamese in North Viet Nam and the northern part of Central Viet Nam.

When he arrived in the capital, he had very few clothes, so several people visited the shops to find a suit of clothes for the President. At last, he found a khaki suit and a pair of rubber sandals. It was in this attire that the President appeared before the people.

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And there he was, the man who had changed his name a hundred times, engaged in a dozen professions and trades, who had been many times a soldier and a communist, a dentist, the man who had at one time been reported as dead, there he was, the first President of the newly established Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an illustrious President, indeed.

A journalist who attended the meeting described his impressions as follows:

"The 19th of August was our day when our people in the whole country rose up to seize power.

"The 2nd of September was the day when we told the world that our power had been firmly established."

For the Vietnamese people, September 2 was a solemn, glorious and happy day.

Most privileged were the people of Hanoi, for the 2nd of September was not only the glorious Independence Day, but also the day when they could see with their own eyes Vietnam's best and dearest son.

The population of Hanoi and towns and villages in the vicinity came into the Dinh Square in an endless stream, filling the surrounding streets. Altogether there were about a million people. Never before in the history of Viet Nam had there been such a big meeting.

A new national flag, a new national anthem, a new army, a new people, a new Government, a new regime. Over twenty million hearts were beating with the same rhythm.

In the bright Autumn sunshine, with a background of clear blue sky, the red flags with golden stars flew proudly in the fresh wind.

The Declaration of Independence was the outcome of much bloodshed and many sacrifices of lives by Viet Nam's brave sons and daughters in the prisons and concentration camps, in remote detention islands, on the guillotines and on the battle-fields.

But emotion reached its climax on the arrival of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved and respected leader whom the people were seeing for the first time. The people had come to attend the meeting and also to see President Ho.

It was a magnificent scene! A high imposing tribune, brave combatants, and impressive guard of honour, a forest of flags, a long line of cars... A spectacle worthy of the independence day of the People's Democratic Power. And the people told themselves that all these things were theirs.

Coming to the grand ceremony, everyone expected to see a president, a leader like they had seen before. People of course knew they would not see a man attired like a king of ancient times in a royal yellow gown and a belt adorned with pearls, but the person who had come was a simple man dressed like a national leader in an impeccable dress, with a distinguished gait and an ornate speech—in a word a personality with many mannerisms.

The people soon realized that they had been misled by their imagination. When President Ho Chi Minh arrived they found him just simple and cordial.

I saw President Ho Chi Minh from a distance. He wore a faded khaki helmet, a pair of rubber sandals and a khaki suit.

When the President began reading the Declaration of Independence, his loud, clear voice reminded one of the sound of a trumpet and the roar of warfare. Enthusiastic applause exploded when he had finished reading one section. He asked amidst cheers:

"Fellow-countrymen, can you hear me distinctly?"

The simple question dispelled what might still separate the President and his people, and created a strong tie uniting the leader and the masses.

The strange question was quite unexpected. The President of the Republic had forsaken all ceremonial and formalities, he had become the Vietnamese people's "Uncle Ho."

"Fellow-countrymen, can you hear me distinctly?"

He was deeply moved by the love of President Ho Chi Minh for his people. Everyone felt that the President was just a man like himself, the boy he used to play with, and friendly to them that he belonged to the people, and was a man whose love for the people was boundless.

In answer to the President's question, a million voices thundered, "Yes!" And for me as well as for the others this was the best, the deepest sentiment of that historic Independence Day.

(From *Glimpses of the Life of President Ho Chi Minh* by Tran Dan Tien)

\* set up by the Japanese.

## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH GREETS WORLD YOUTH AND STUDENT VIET NAM MEETING

I am very happy to convey warm greetings and sincere thanks to the representatives of the world youth and students who are fighting in support of our people's struggle against US aggression.

Your meeting is a fine manifestation of the zeal and determination of the young generation to achieve its noble ideals of free dom, national independence and peace. It is a source of encouragement to our people in their struggle to defend the Fatherland, a precious contribution to their final victory. It is all the more important at a

time when the Nixon administration persists in intensifying the war of aggression, maintaining the Saigon puppet administration and multiplying its crimes against our people.

The Vietnamese people are ever more resolved to resist until the US stop its aggression, withdraw from South Vietnam all troops of the US and other foreign countries in the US camp without laying down any condition, and leave the South Vietnamese people decide their own affairs.

I wish your meeting good success.

## "We Are Meeting Here To Show Our Sustained and Resolute Support for Viet Nam"

(Declaration of A. Olivia, President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, at the opening session of the "World Meeting of Youth and Students for the Final Victory of the Vietnamese people.")

**R**EPORTS from Helsinki say that the World Meeting of Youth and Students for the Final Victory of the Vietnamese people" attended by over 100 delegates from 13 international bodies and 124 national organizations of youth and students, opened in Helsinki on August 23, 1969.

Among the guests were Hoang Minh Giang, Minister of Culture of the DRVN, Nguyen Van Tien, deputy-head of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, and Nguyen Minh Vy, advisor to the leader of the DRVN Government Delegation to the Paris Conference.

Thunderous applause greeted the delegation of DRVN youth and students led by Luis Minh Chua and that of the South Vietnamese Liberation youth and students headed by Tran Van An, as they entered the Meeting Hall.

Finland's Minister of Finance Eile Alenus delivered on behalf of his Government the welcome speech. He said:

"The progressive people in Finland will make every possible effort to give material and moral support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for their survival and their future. We assure you that various

social strata in Finland want the US to withdraw from South Viet Nam. The US has no right to delay or block the progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. Mr. Alenus stressed:

A. Olivia, President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, outlined the activities of world youth and students in support Viet Nam. He declared:

"We are meeting here to express our firm determination to continue our support for Viet Nam. We unreservedly side with the Vietnamese fighters. We are certain that the hard struggle conducted by the South Vietnamese people will be crowned with success, on the basis of the top-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL. We hail the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN, a historic event for all the progressive forces and a new victory of the Vietnamese fighters."

"We also threatened to 'head' us to intimidate into giving information on such matters as: organization and tasks of our Embassy; number of its personnel and duties of each of them; precautions to defend it in case of its ransacking; its story and responsibilities of each of us, etc. From their content and nature, their questions obviously were provocative attempts to collect intelligence against our Embassy."

"They also faked our signatures in the so-called 'declaration' in honour and 'request to stay in Laos' with a view to deceiving public opinion. They fabricated the story that we had denounced the Vietnamese residents in Laos, using this as a pretext to suppress, persecute and arrest illegally Vietnamese residents who have always been honestly earning their living and respecting the laws, manners and customs of the Kingdom of Laos.

"The above acts of the Vietnamese authorities are part of their scheme pursued for many years now to systematically slander and provoke the US intensified interference and aggression against Laos and undermine the time-honoured friendship be-

tween the Vietnamese and Laotian peoples."

"They have violated very seriously foreign diplomats' immunities and international press regulations."

"We strongly protest and resolutely reject all their charges and denounce to public opinion their blatant provocations against our Embassy."

THE six officials of the DRVN who had been allegedly detained by the Vientiane authorities since August 9, 1969, were returned in Hanoi on August 26 as a result of firm representations and actions.

They were welcomed at the airport by Nguyen Cu Thach, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs; Le Van Hoa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DRVN to the Kingdom of Laos; Dao Tung, Director General of Viet Nam News Agency, and big crowd.

The returns were all pale and tired as a result of 17 days of detention and ill-treatment. One of them, Huang Nhiet Quang, came back in underpants only, all his clothes having been stripped by the Vientiane authorities, while Nguyen Trong Hung, whose shoes were grabbed, was bare-footed. The beatings of others, including manly, wrist-watches, fountain pens, etc., had been taken away by the Vientiane administration, and they had to fly back in their only soiled suits.

After a medical check-up, the doctors announced that the health of the six DRVN officials was seriously impaired. They made a statement at the airport some extracts of which follow:

"The Vientiane authorities engineered a car accident" to have a

most shocking way; they beat us, forced us to sleep on the floor, with neither mosquito net nor mat.

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# Military Operations

**Da Nang Front:** Successful Attacks against 2 US Marine Regiment HQ's: 700 GI's and 12 Cannons Put out of Action and 10 Aircraft Downed on Aug. 19.

**Saigon Front:** US Heavy Losses in Binh Long and Tay Ninh Provinces; 2,600 US and Puppet Troops Put out of Action between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21.

**Mekong Delta:** 3 Enemy Companies Wiped Out in 2 Days in Ben Tre Province and 800 US and Puppet Soldiers Put out of Action in Ca Mau in 8 Days.

## Enemy Losses in Various Regions:

- **Quang Tri-Thieu Thien:** 2,500 Men Put out of Action, 35 Aircraft Downed, 70 Vehicles and 40 Logistic Depots Destroyed between Aug. 1 and Aug. 15.
- **Central Trung Bo:** 4,000 Adverse Casualties Listed, 26 Aircraft Downed, 172 Vehicles, 12 Cannons and 17 Logistic Depots Destroyed between Aug. 7 and Aug. 17.
- **Southern Trung Bo:** 1,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15.

**T**HE PLAF offensives since August 11-12 continue unabated especially in the Da Nang and Saigon sectors.

**Da Nang sector:** Two regiments, HQ's (1st and 5th Regiments) of the US First Marine Division which came under attack on the night of Aug. 15 suffered 250 men killed and 10 junior officers, 12 heavy guns destroyed and 50 commandments burnt down. The day after, company of the US 196th Light Infantry Brigade was destroyed in the Que Son area where, between

Aug. 18 and Aug. 20, this Brigade suffered 300 casualties, lost to planes and helicopters shot down and 2 cannons destroyed.

Further Southeast, in Quang Ngai province, a US camp and decimated Aug. 22 and some 200 men captured. They were knocked out in separate engagements around the provincial capital at dawn Aug. 17.

Further South, shellings were made on enemy positions in Qui Nhieu (270 km from Da Nang) on the night of Aug. 19 and in

Gan Rash on the night of Aug. 27 when same 100 South Korean casualties were reported.

All told, in the provinces stretching from Da Nang and Nha Trang constituting Central Trung Bo, the to-day period ending Aug. 20, the US-puppet toll is 4,000, a battalion and 4 companies written off the musterroll, 26 aircraft shot down and 172 vehicles destroyed.

On the Selang front, the PLAF continues to win substantial successes in the provinces of Binh Long and Tay Ninh, respectively North

and Northwest of Saigon where, between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21, 2,600 adverse troops were put out of action, 24 aircraft downed and 164 military vehicles wrecked.

On Aug. 20, a US armoured column intercepted between Chon Thanh and Hoc Quan suffered losses including 69 vehicles, 200 men and 8 choppers. This is the third fast of the PLAF in the sector of Chon Thanh in 8 days. Total battle count during these 3 engagements: 217 vehicles including 97 tanks and armoured cars blasted out of action, 800 GI's disabled, and 37 choppers brought down.

Further North, near Loe Ninh, an enemy encampment was also decimated Aug. 20, 3 US and puppet companies, 250 enemy troops and 15 tanks and armoured cars and 4 heavy mortars wiped out.

In Tay Ninh province, 400 adverse casualties were listed and 8 aircraft shot down between Aug. 19 and Aug. 21. South of the provincial capital, the hunt for enemy river craft between Aug. 18 and Aug. 21 yielded 48 vessels sunk or burnt and some 1,000 men killed or wounded.

In other theatres of operation, let's mention:

- A raid on the HQ of the 3rd Brigade, US roost Airborne, at Ta Tach near A Bia, Southwest of Huon on Aug. 24, exacting several hundred casualties, destroying a huge transport plane by guerrillas in this area on Aug. 18, causing the death of some 50 adverse soldiers; shelling of the US Sa Moa base South of the DMZ on Aug. 20, dis-

abling 150 GI's. Total enemy losses in South Viet Nam's two northernmost provinces of Binh Trang and Thua Thien-Hue, including 2,000 GI's and 70 vehicles put out of action, 35 aircraft shot down and 40 military depots destroyed.

- In the Western Highlands, the destruction on Aug. 17 of 3 US road convoys between Lang Yen and Muong Yang, and the seizure of 32 trucks and armoured cars can't get 48 GI's put out of action.

- In Southern Trung Bo formed by the provinces Southwest of Nha Trang, between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15, some 3,000 adverse troops were put out of action. The biggest results were achieved on Aug. 13 at Lang Mao (300 km East-Northeast of Saigon) where the CP of the puppet 44th Regiment was blotted out and 450 enemy casualties listed, and on Aug. 14 at Phuoc Thiet where 15 US-puppets were knocked out and 15 vehicles destroyed in an ambush.

In the Mekong Delta, between Aug. 11 and Aug. 16, the PLAF of Ben Tre province inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy: 1,000 GI's and 100 choppers grounded; on Aug. 17 and Aug. 21, 3 puppet companies were all struck out of the charge in this sector.

In the Southernmost sector, in Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces, the US puppets were killed or wounded, 5 vessels sent to the bottom and 3 helicopters grazed by regional troops between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15.

## CHANGE IN SAIGON

## VARIATION ON AN OLD THEME

**T**HE puppet Tran Van Huong government fell after less than one year and a half of antics on the Saigon political stage, and Nguyen Van Thieu, who intruded a militiaman of his, Tran Thien Khiem, to form a new one. However, the differences within the puppet administration remain unsolved because the situation is far from being stabilized. Things are getting from bad to worse. "A dangerous vacuum is being created and unless known measures of confusion will lead to," complained a Saigon official.

Is the situation of the puppet administration confuse?

No, it is as clear as ever. The puppet administration is heading for collapse!

First, this crisis spells out US failure in the use of stooges over the past eighteen months to consolidate and broaden the puppet regime.

Under the impact of the simultaneous offensives and uprisings by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people the US aggressors put

in power militarists to achieve of the "Americanization" of their war against South Viet Nam. But after Tet 1968 the Yankees had to fall back on the strategic defensive. The militarists came under fire running and no brutality could help their importance.

As the puppet administration faced a complete collapse, the Americans broadened its ranks by gathering more henchmen and tried to compose their internal disputes by bringing in the civilian Tran Van Huong clique.

Nevertheless, after fourteen months of this experiment the cranky chariot of war has not fared any better. The wrangles have embittered the inner party and further dimmed both Thieu and Huong busy with their intrigues have fallen far short of Nixon's expectations in the "de-Americanization" of the war. The latter has been forced to let Thieu out. However, in nursing of the US Embassy, he set up a new cabinet. In their pre-dilection the US imperialists

have had to revert to "a new variation on an old theme." The choice of the militarists, who failed to "Americanize" the country, to "de-Americanize" it is clear evidence of Nixon's dilemma.

Second, the change points to Nixon's failure to beef up Nguyen Van Thieu's army. Nixon has realized that, with a thoroughly unpopular puppet administration and an inefficient heterogeneous army should be up by 500,000 men to combat the US neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. For this calls for the rallying of forces around a single leader to command warring factions and the establishment of a political organization serving as a prop to the puppet administration. Nixon has been lauding praise on Thieu as one of the few brilliant statesmen of the world today. He came to Saigon and called on Thieu to create a political party in support of the government. All this was meant to consolidate the puppet administration, widen its political base and set up a mobilized reactionary force to impose all sensible political solutions to the problems in South Viet Nam and achieve US neo-colonialism there. Now this dream has been shattered. Anarchy sets in. Divergences are ripe. The American imperialists, however, go

against this trend of evolution of the puppet administration in the US failure in South Viet Nam. "Let us profit within it a lackey is the dominant feature." This antagonist is sharper ever, swalling the ranks of Thieu's air followers, together with hundreds of officers and party members eliminated or put into jail will certainly react. At the same time Nguyen Van Thieu will become more and more alienated. The mass of Huong does not bribe the puppets together by it triggers a new scramble.

(Continued page 7)

LONG LIVE PEACEFUL, REUNIFIED, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS VIET NAM

VIET NAM COURIER